

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1997

Introduced by Assembly Member Portantino

February 17, 2010

An act to amend Section 69433 of the Education Code, relating to student financial aid.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1997, as introduced, Portantino. Community colleges: student financial aid programs: application forms.

Existing law establishes various student financial aid programs under the administration of the Student Aid Commission, and establishes eligibility requirements under these programs for participating students attending qualifying institutions.

Existing law requires the commission to authorize the use of standardized student financial aid application forms and requires these forms to be used for the Cal Grant Program and all other programs funded by the state or a public institution of postsecondary education, except that a simplified form may be used for a specified financial assistance program of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

This bill would instead authorize a community college district to use the simplified form solely for purposes of specified fee waivers provided by the board of governors, and only under certain circumstances. The bill would require a community college district that elects to use the simplified form to annually report to the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges the number of simplified forms used and its justifications for the use of that form.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 69433 of the Education Code is amended
2 to read:

3 69433. (a) (1) A Cal Grant Program award shall be based
4 upon the financial need of the applicant, and shall not exceed the
5 calculated financial need for any individual applicant. The
6 minimum level of financial need of each applicant shall be
7 determined by the commission pursuant to Section 69432.9. The
8 commission may provide renewal awards.

9 (2) A student attending a nonpublic institution shall receive a
10 renewal award for tuition or fees, or both, in an amount not to
11 exceed the maximum allowable award amount that was in effect
12 in the year in which the student first received a new award.

13 (b) A Cal Grant award authorized pursuant to this chapter shall
14 be defined as a full-time equivalent grant. An award to a part-time
15 student shall be a fraction of a full-time grant, as determined by
16 the commission.

17 (c) (1) The commission shall prescribe the use of standardized
18 student financial aid applications for California. These applications
19 shall be simple in nature, and collect common data elements
20 required by the federal government and those elements needed to
21 meet the objectives of state-funded and institutional financial aid
22 programs.

23 (2) (A) The applications prescribed in paragraph (1) shall be
24 ~~utilized~~ *used* for the Cal Grant Program, all other programs funded
25 by the state or a public institution of postsecondary education
26 ~~(except for the Financial Assistance Program of the Board of~~
27 ~~Governors of the California Community Colleges authorized by~~
28 ~~Chapter 1118 of the Statutes of 1987, for which a simplified~~
29 ~~application designed for that sole purpose may be used), and all~~
30 ~~federal programs administered by a public postsecondary education~~
31 ~~institution.~~

32 *(B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), a community college*
33 *district may use a simplified form solely for purposes of fee waivers*
34 *from the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges*
35 *under Section 76300. The community college district may use the*

1 *simplified form only in those cases in which it is determined by*
2 *the governing board of the district to be appropriate. If a*
3 *community college district elects to use a simplified form pursuant*
4 *to this subparagraph, the district shall annually report to the*
5 *Chancellor of the California community Colleges the number of*
6 *simplified forms used by the district and its justifications for the*
7 *use of that form.*

8 (3) Supplemental application information may be ~~utilized~~ *used*
9 if the information is essential to accomplishing the objectives of
10 individual programs. All supplemental application information
11 used for the purposes of commission-administered programs shall
12 be subject to approval by the commission, and applications shall
13 be identical for programs with similar objectives, as determined
14 by the commission.

15 (4) Public postsecondary institutions are encouraged to use, but
16 may decide whether to use, the standard applications for funds
17 provided by private donors.

18 (5) The Legislature finds and declares that it is in the best
19 interest of students that all postsecondary education institutions in
20 California participating in federal and state-funded financial aid
21 programs accept the standard applications prescribed by the
22 commission.

23 (d) Nothing in this chapter shall prevent an individual public
24 postsecondary institution from processing, with its own staff and
25 fiscal resources, the standard financial aid applications specified
26 in subdivision (c) for student aid programs for which it has legal
27 responsibility.

28 (e) The commission may enter into contracts with a public
29 agency or a private entity to improve the processing and
30 distribution of grants, fellowships, and loans through the use of
31 electronic networks and unified ~~data bases~~ *databases*.